

IOWA BOARD OF EDUCATIONAL EXAMINERS

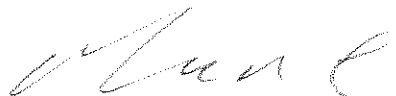
IN THE MATTER OF:)	Case No. 20-23
)	
Thomas J. Houdek,)	License No. 360540
)	
Respondent.)	FINAL ORDER
)	

1. The Respondent holds a Class A License (FOLDER # 360540) with the following endorsements: 5-12 Mathematics, 5-12 Business-General. Respondent's license is current and will next expire on June 30, 2024.
2. During all material events of this case, Respondent was employed as a teacher with the Decorah School District.
3. On February 18, 2020, the Board of Educational Examiners received a complaint against Respondent alleging various violations. On or about May 15, 2020, the Board found probable cause to proceed to hearing based upon the facts set forth herein and delineated in further detail within the complaint and investigation file compiled by the Board.
4. The Board charged Respondent with soliciting, encouraging, or consummating a romantic or otherwise inappropriate relationship with a student, in violation of 282 Iowa Administrative Code rule 25.3(1)(e)(4); failing to make reasonable effort to protect the health and safety of the student or creating conditions harmful to student learning, in violation of 282 Iowa Administrative Code rule 25.3(6)(c); conducting professional business in such a way that the practitioner repeatedly exposes students or other practitioners to unnecessary embarrassment or disparagement, in violation of 282 Iowa Administrative Code rule 25.3(6)(d).
5. Pursuant to Board rule, a practitioner may voluntarily surrender the practitioner's license if the practitioner waives the right to hearing before the Board and notifies the Board of the intent to accept a permanent revocation of the practitioner's license. Upon receipt of a voluntary surrender, "[t]he Board may issue an order permanently revoking the practitioner license" 282 I.A.C. 11.4(6).
6. On June 19, 2020, the Respondent filed a Surrender of Practitioner License and Waiver of Formal Hearing form. The voluntary surrender was presented to and accepted by the Board at a meeting held on June 26, 2020.

ORDER

THEREFORE, the Board acknowledges the Respondent's voluntary surrender of his practitioner license and incorporates his action into this Order by attaching a copy of the surrender to this Order. In accordance with this filing, all licenses issued by the Board to the Respondent and his privilege to practice in Iowa are **PERMANENTLY REVOKED** with no possibility of reinstatement.

Dated this 26th day of June, 2020.



Michael D. Cavin, Interim Executive Director
On behalf of the Board

Copies to:

Thomas J. Houdek (first-class mail and certified mail)
RESPONDENT

Christy Hickman (electronic mail)
ATTORNEY FOR RESPONDENT

Jesse Ramirez (electronic mail)
ATTORNEY FOR THE STATE

STATE of IOWA
BOARD OF EDUCATIONAL EXAMINERS
Grimes State Office Building
Des Moines, IA 50319-0147

RECEIVED
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
BOARD OF EDUCATIONAL EXAMINERS
JUN 19 2020

SURRENDER OF PRACTITIONER LICENSE
AND
WAIVER OF FORMAL HEARING
Before the
IOWA BOARD OF EDUCATIONAL EXAMINERS

I, THOMAS HOEDEK (BoEE Folder No. 360540), swear
and affirm under oath:

that I am the Respondent in a case currently before the Iowa Board of Educational
Examiners;

that I currently hold a valid or expired Iowa practitioner's license;

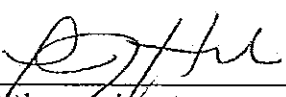
that I have been informed of and understand the nature of the proceedings before
the Board and have received a copy of the complaint filed against me and the
applicable rules (282 Iowa Administrative Code, Chapters 11 and 25);

that I am aware of the Board's legal authority to exonerate, warn, or reprimand me
as a licensed individual, following a Board investigation into allegations of
conduct violative of Board criteria, and of the Board's authority to suspend
or revoke my license for conduct violative of Board criteria;

that I understand that I have an opportunity to be heard and to contest the
allegations against me in formal hearing before the Board; and that by
waiving the formal hearing, I waive my right to challenge the allegations
against me in the complaint, and as a consequence, my privilege to teach,
administer, coach, and/or otherwise practice as a licensee in Iowa will be
permanently revoked with no possibility of reinstatement;

that I understand that the Board will notify the NASDTEC (National Association of
State Directors of Teacher Education & Certification) National Clearinghouse
that my license has been revoked and that other state teacher licensing
boards will have access to this information.

HAVING ACKNOWLEDGED MY RIGHTS AS OUTLINED ABOVE, I hereby formally waive
my right to a hearing before the Board and request that my license to teach, administer,
coach, and/or otherwise practice as a licensee of the Board of Educational Examiners in
Iowa be revoked. I affirm that my decision is made voluntarily and knowingly.


Practitioner signature

6-18-20
Date

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF EDUCATIONAL EXAMINERS
OF THE STATE OF IOWA**

In the matter of)	Case No. 20-23
)	Folder No. 360540
THOMAS HOUDEK,)	
)	NOTICE OF HEARING
Respondent.)	AND STATEMENT OF CHARGES

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners, exercising the jurisdiction conferred by Iowa Code chapters 17A and 272, has found probable cause of a violation of Board rules and ordered this matter scheduled for hearing.

A. TIME, PLACE AND NATURE OF HEARING

1. Hearing will be held on Monday, September 14, 2020, before Administrative Law Judge Laura Lockard, acting on behalf of the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners. The hearing shall begin at 9:00 a.m. in the Department of Inspections and Appeals, Wallace State Office Bldg. Auditorium, Second Floor, 502 E. 9th Street (East 9th and Grand Avenue), Des Moines, Iowa. Please enter the Wallace Building at the main entrance on the east side. Public parking is available in the parking ramp on the west side of the Wallace Building.

2. Answer. Within twenty (20) days of the date of service of this Notice of Hearing, you are required to file an Answer specifically admitting, denying, or otherwise responding to the allegations included within the Factual Allegations. In that Answer, you should also state whether you will require an adjustment of the date and time of the hearing. A copy of the Answer shall be provided by the Respondent to the Assistant Attorney General identified below.

3. Hearing Procedures. The procedural rules governing the conduct of the hearing are found at 282 Iowa Administrative Code chapter 11. At hearing, you may appear personally or be represented by an attorney, at your own expense. You will be allowed the opportunity to respond to the charges against you. Each party will be allowed to testify, examine and cross-examine witnesses, and present documentary evidence. If you fail to appear at the hearing, the Board may enter a default decision or proceed with the hearing and render a decision in your absence. If you need to request an alternative time or date for hearing, you must comply with the requirements of 282 Iowa Administrative Code rule 11.19.

If either party wishes to present telephonic testimony or to participate in the hearing by telephone, arrangements must be made at least ten (10) days in advance of the hearing date by filing a written request with the presiding Administrative Law Judge, Department of Inspections and Appeals, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319, or by faxing a written request to (515) 281-4477. A copy of the request for telephonic testimony must be served on the Board and all parties. Any resistance to the request for telephone testimony must be filed within five (5) days of service of the notice.

4. Pre-hearing conference. Either party may request a pre-hearing conference to discuss evidentiary issues related to the hearing. The Board rules regarding pre-hearing conferences are found in 282 Iowa Administrative Code rule 11.18.

5. Prosecution. The office of the Attorney General is responsible for prosecuting and representing the public interest (the State) in this proceeding. Pleadings shall be filed with the Board and copies should be provided to counsel for the State at the following address:

Jesse Ramirez
Assistant Attorney General
Iowa Department of Justice
2nd Floor, Hoover State Office Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Telephone (515) 281-3395

6. Communications. You may not contact Board members by phone, letter, facsimile, e-mail, or in person about this Notice of Hearing or the pending charges. Board members may only receive information about the case when all parties have notice and an opportunity to participate, such as at the hearing or in pleadings you file with the Board office and serve on all parties in the case. You should direct any questions about this proceeding to Michael D. Cavin, the Board's Interim Executive Director, at (515) 281-5849 or to Assistant Attorney General Ramirez at (515) 281-3395.

B. SECTIONS OF STATUTES AND RULES INVOLVED

Count I

7. Respondent is charged with soliciting, encouraging, or consummating a romantic or otherwise inappropriate relationship with a student, in violation of 282 Iowa Administrative Code rule 25.3(1)(e)(4).

Count II

8. Respondent is charged with failing to make reasonable effort to protect the health and safety of the student or creating conditions harmful to student learning, in violation of 282 Iowa Administrative Code rule 25.3(6)(c).

Count III

9. Respondent is charged with conducting professional business in such a way that the practitioner repeatedly exposes students or other practitioners to unnecessary embarrassment or disparagement, in violation of 282 Iowa Administrative Code rule 25.3(6)(d).

C. JURISDICTION AND LEGAL AUTHORITY

10. The Board has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to Iowa Code chapters 17A and 272. If any of the allegations against you are proven at hearing, the Board has authority to take disciplinary action against you under Iowa Code chapters 17A and 272, and 282 Iowa Administrative Code chapter 11.

D. FACTUAL CIRCUMSTANCES

11. Respondent holds a Class A License (Folder # 360540) with the following endorsements: 5-12 Mathematics; 5-12 Business-General. This license is current and will next expire on 6-30-2024.

12. During all material events of this case, Respondent was employed as a teacher with the Decorah School District.

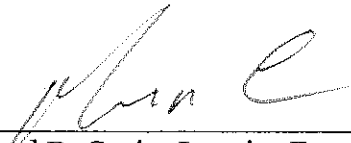
13. On February 18, 2020, the Board of Educational Examiners received a complaint against Respondent alleging various violations. On or about May 15, 2020, the Board found probable cause to proceed to hearing based upon the facts set forth herein and delineated in further detail within the complaint and investigation file compiled by the Board.

14. Investigation revealed that the Respondent had multiple appropriate communications with students, including conversations via social media and gift giving that encouraged, fostered, and amounted to inappropriate relationships with his students. Some of these communications were sexual in nature.

E. SETTLEMENT

15. This matter may be resolved by surrender of your license or an agreement to accept a lesser sanction. The procedural rules governing the Board's settlement process are found at 282 Iowa Administrative Code rule 11.4(6). If you are interested in pursuing settlement of this matter, please contact the Assistant Attorney General identified in Section A, above.

Dated this 10th day of June, 2020.



Michael D. Cavin, Interim Executive Director
Iowa Board of Educational Examiners

Copies to:

Thomas Houdek (first-class mail and certified mail)
RESPONDENT

Christy Hickman (electronic mail)
ATTORNEY FOR RESPONDENT

Jesse Ramirez (electronic mail)
ATTORNEY FOR THE STATE